the Alliance Weekly

JUNE 19, 1957

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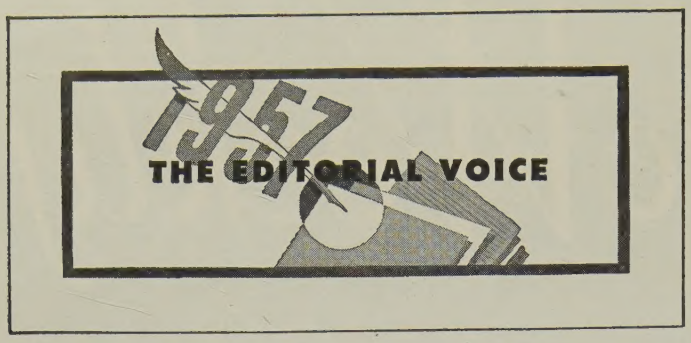

THE MONEY QUESTION NEEDS PRAYERFUL RESTUDY—II

Christ likened His followers to children and sheep and pointed to birds and lilies as having valuable lessons for us.

These four little creatures differ widely from each other but have one thing in common: their complete freedom from worry. They have no financial troubles. They live spontaneously, simply, without strain, and God takes care of them. This is what our Lord wants us to learn to do as individual Christians, and the same spirit should characterize every church and every Christian institution of whatever sort it may be.

We in the churches seem unable to rise above the fiscal philosophy which rules the business world; so we introduce into our church finances the psychology of the great secular institutions so familiar to us all and judge a church by its financial report much as we judge a bank or a department store.

A look into history will quickly convince any interested person that the true church has almost always suffered more from prosperity than from poverty. Her times of greatest spiritual power have usually coincided with her periods of indigence and rejection; with wealth came weakness and backsliding. If this cannot be explained, neither apparently can it be escaped. People simply run true to their nature; and after all the church is composed of people.

It is a well-known fact that authority requires money to maintain itself in power, and it is not otherwise when that authority is ecclesiastical. The economic squeeze is not unknown in religious circles and has always been the devil's own device whether used by a church board to bring a bold pastor to time or by denominational leaders to force a local church into line. Such abuses are possible only because we have allowed ourselves to get entangled in unscriptural methods of church financing.

The point I am trying to make here is that while money has a proper place in the total life of the church militant the tendency is to attach to it an importance that is far greater than is Biblically sound or morally right. The average church has so established itself organizationally and financially that God is simply not necessary to it. So entrenched is its authority and so stable are the religious habits of its members that God could withdraw Himself completely from it as He once withdrew the Shekinah from the Temple an it could run on for years on its own momentum. An the same is true of schools, Bible conferences and mi sionary societies.

It is particularly regrettable that the activities churches and societies must be cut back to agree wi actual or anticipated income. Think back to the roo of this practice and you will see that it makes th power of the Spirit of God depend upon the state the national economy or the varying wage levels different localities. Should the members of a lo church withhold their tithes and offerings that chur will accomplish less statistically, it is true, but alwa its accomplishments will depend upon its spiritual con tion and not upon its treasury. The treasury will full if the people are holy; or if the people are genero but poor, then the Holy Ghost will give them fruit o of all proportion to their financial report. The fruit the church agrees with its basic spirituality, never up the state of its exchequer.

The history of churches and denominations follo pretty closely a rather uniform pattern: It is to beg in poverty and power; get established to a degree th removes all hazard and gives financial security; becom accepted by society; outgrow the need for divine inte vention; keep Christ as a figurehead, ignore His Lor ship and carry on after the traditions of the elders; off the clergy a reward for staying in line in the form an old age pension; put enough persons in places power who profit financially by the prosperity of t group. After that it's *requiescat in pace,* and the trag thing about it all is that no one knows he is dead.

No church or denomination need go that way if t members detect the trend before it is too late. B I wonder. So bound are we to the treasurer's rep that we habitually forget who we are and what we a called to do. Anyone can do the possible; add a of courage and zeal and some may do the phenomen only Christians are obliged to do the impossible. If could rise in faith like Samson and break the ropes th bind us we might see again that a church's outgo c be greater than its income, as much greater as God greater than circumstances. We might have demo strated before our eyes how God works wonders wh His people leave a margin for miracles.

●

QUOTES FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES

Asks Robert Clark in *Gospel Herald:*

"What more could one ask than wisdom for daily livi the beauty of the Lord on us and in us, and the wo of our hands acceptable unto Him?"

D. A. Davis, writing in *The Christian,* emphasizes th believers should not forsake the assembling of the selves together:

"The church today is drifting farther and farther fr the supernatural, and therefore that type of minist which proclaims and intreats the invasion of the Divi is becoming less and less welcome in many quarter

Making Known The Wonderful Lord

By REV. RAYMOND L. COX

AT a religious conference held in Miami, Florida, the first speaker thrilled the delegates with a masterful message. As the people filed out of the auditorium comments most complimentary were heard: "Wasn't that a wonderful sermon?" "Isn't he a powerful preacher?" "Wouldn't you like to listen to him longer?" "Don't you wish he were going to speak again tonight?"

However, a different man was scheduled to address the assembly that evening. After his message there were comments like these: "Isn't Jesus wonderful?" "Don't we have a lovely Lord?" "Our God is so good!" "What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus!"

Which do you suppose was the *better* sermon?

The exaltation of Jesus Christ rather than the glamorization of any human messenger is, of course, the proper aim of the pulpit. Attracting allegiance to Christ, rather than to magnetic personalities, is the only effective way to promote spiritual growth. Long ago Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). That reference is to the crucifixion, but the proposition propounded is also true when applied to Christian testimony. The lifting up of Jesus, His exaltation in conversation, remains the surest way to draw sinners to the Saviour.

However, the conversion of sinners is not solely the responsibility of preachers. The Early Church turned the world right-side-up in its generation without cumbersome ecclesiastical machinery and without substantial financial backing because members of the Early Church applied themselves to the task to which the Holy Spirit was directing them.

Every Christian considered himself personally responsible to win another individual, and "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). These apostolic Christians were not apologetic about the gospel. They were not ashamed to talk about Jesus outside the congregation of believers. They invaded the market places and the homes of the unsaved. There they made known their wonderful Lord.

Times have changed. Civilization has progressed. But the program of the early Christians has not been improved upon. It remains the best method of multiplying converts to Christ. A great soul-winner said, "People will be saved when individual Christians become individually responsible for sinners!"

Many suppose the conversion of the lost to be solely within the province of a professional clergy. People who cherish such opinions need to be undeceived. Every Christian is commissioned to make known the way of salvation to his acquaintances. All believers are commissioned with an embassy to the lost. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God" (2 Cor. 5:20). The basis for this Christian appeal is the tremendous truth that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them" (verse 19).

But what happens when Christians remain silent about their message? What is the result when they refuse or neglect to propagate God's proffered pardon?

Centuries ago the esteemed governor of the Isle of Man was tried for treason. Perjured evidence was presented and that innocent official was convicted and sentenced to hang. The attention of the king was directed to this miscarriage of justice and the English sovereign granted a pardon. However, the innocent governor was executed. Why? Because the courier commissioned to deliver the pardon never delivered it!

What happens when individual believers fail to witness to unsaved acquaintances? The unbelievers may never hear the message. They may never learn of the pardon God offers to those who have earned "the wages of sin" which is "death" (Rom. 6:23). Some sinner may never be reached

Man's Moral Bankruptcy

Sin, like a venomous disease,
Infects our vital blood;
The only balm is sov'reign grace,
And the physician God.

Our beauty and our strength are fled,
And we draw near to death;
But Christ the Lord recalls the dead,
With His almighty breath.

Madness, by nature, reigns within,
The passions burn and rage;
'Til God's own Son, with skill divine,
The inward fire assuage.

We lick the dust, we grasp the wind,
And solid good despise;
Such is the folly of the mind,
'Til Jesus make us wise.

We give our souls the wounds they feel,
We drink the pois'nous gall,
And rush with fury down to hell—
But Heaven prevents the fall.

—ISAAC WATTS.

Rev. Cox is pastor of The Foursquare Church of Corvallis, Ore.

with the message of mercy if *you* do not reach him!

Every believer should consider himself commissioned personally by the Lord to make known the message of redeeming grace to all with whom God brings him into contact. And Christ, not church membership, not personalities, should be the center of attention. Christians are not to win converts to themselves but to their Saviour. People who are converted only to personalities rarely persevere in the Christian walk.

Billy Sunday was accosted in Chicago by a drunk who muttered, "Hey, there, Billy, don't you remember me? I'm one of your converts!" The evangelist eyed the man sorrowfully and answered, "You must be one of *my* converts. It's plain to see that God didn't have anything to do with your conversion!"

It is to be feared that many professed decisions for Christ are motivated by the popularity of the messenger rather than the acceptance of the message, hence the exceedingly high mortality rate among new "converts." If the witnessing of Christians is to stand the test at the judgment seat of Christ, their conversations must be slanted to evoke from those who hear them the exclamation, "Isn't Jesus wonderful!" rather than, "Isn't that person a wonderful soul-winner!" ◆ ◆ ◆

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What Do You Worship?

By ALEXANDER MACLAREN

A man's true worship is not the worship which he performs in the public temple, but that which he offers down in that little private chapel where nobody goes but himself. Worship is the attribution of supreme excellence to and the entire dependence of the heart upon a certain person. And the people or things to which a man attributes the highest excellence, and on which he hangs his happiness and well-being, these be his gods, no matter what his outward profession is.

You can find out what these are for you if you will ask yourself and honestly answer one or two questions. What is it that I want most? What is it which makes my ideal of happiness? What is that which I feel that I should be desperate without? What do I think about most naturally and spontaneously, when the spring is taken off and my thoughts are allowed to go as they will? And if the answer to none of these questions is "God" then I do not know why you should call yourself a worshiper of God. It is of no avail that we pray in the temple if we have the dark, subterranean pit where our true adoration is rendered.

Oh, dear brethren, I am afraid there are a great many of us nominal Christians, connected with Christian churches, posing before men as orthodox religionists, who keep this private chapel where we do our devotion to an idol and not to God. If our real gods could be made visible what a pantheon they would make! All the foul forms painted on that underground cell would be paralleled in the creeping things which crawl along the low earth and never soar nor even stand erect, and in the vile, bestial forms of passion to which some of us really bow down.

Honor, wealth, literary or other distinction, the sweet sanctities of human love dishonored and profaned by being exalted to the place which divine love should hold, ease, family, animal appetites, lust, drink —these are the gods of some of us. Bear with my poor words and ask yourselves, not whom do you worship before the eye of men, but who is the God to whom in your inmost heart you bow down? What do you do in the dark? That is the question. Whom do you worship there? The other thing is not worship at all.

Aviation Program Transferred to MAF

The Foreign Department over a period of several months has given careful study to all phases of our aviation operations and requirements in Netherlands New Guinea.

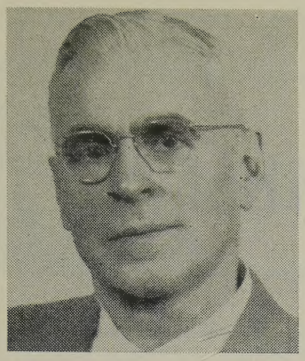
It has been recognized that we and other missionary societies have established bases of operation in the remote interior of New Guinea solely as a result of our initial aviation ministry there. This fact cannot be overemphasized. Because of it, we owe a debt of deep gratitude to the skilled pilots and mechanics of our Aviation Section: the late Albert J. Lewis, and Messrs. E. W. Ulrich, R. O. Lenehan and W. C. Paul.

The result of the study indicated to the Board of Managers that the time had come when it was advisable to terminate the present aviation activity of the Society and to engage the services of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship who have already done considerable flying for us.

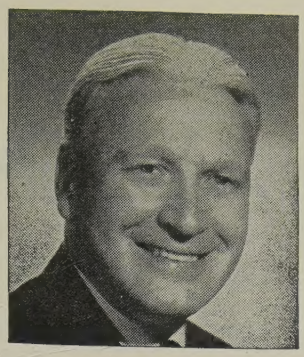
Arrangements were, therefore, made with the Missionary Aviation Fellowship whereby they will purchase one of our aircraft and lease the other Cessna 180 and provide the service we require beginning June 1, 1957.

The residue of the investments made by donors in aircraft for our work in New Guinea, after making allowance for depreciation and damage to aircraft not covered by insurance, will be used to meet our future air freight and transportation needs.

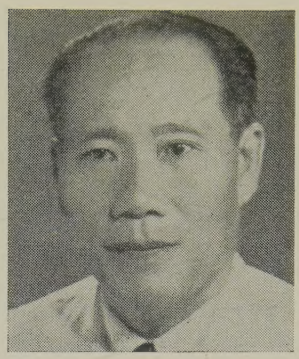
The Foreign Department covets your prayers for God's blessing upon Brothers Ulrich, Lenehan and Paul and their families as they enter into a new phase of ministry for the Lord. Also, kindly remember the Missionary Aviation Fellowship as they hazard their lives to supply our missionaries in the interior of New Guinea.



Dr. Harry L. Turner: "God wills that we go forward."



Dr. J. Sidlow Baxter: "Some sweetness of the heather."



Rev. Le-van-Thai: "Met the missionaries with stones."

Heard at Charlotte

By ANITA M. BAILEY

GENERAL Council might be described as a six-day period for which tremendous preparations have been made by both national and local committees, a meeting which every Alliance worker attends (or wishes he could), a time of fellowship and of renewing friendships (though it's amazing how often we see friends across a crowded church or auditorium and never get close enough to say "hello"). It is also a time of committee meetings, formal and otherwise, of furious typing in the Council office, of hearing—and debating—reports in the business sessions.

But Council is more than that. It is a time of encouragement and spiritual refreshing as preachers listen to others expound the Word of God, a time of hearing God speak, of fellowship in the early prayer services, of enlarged missionary vision. And for many a younger worker it is a time of a renewed commitment to the call of the Lord.

Probably few Council speakers have been taken to the hearts of the delegates as were Dr. J. Sidlow Baxter and Rev. Le-van-Thai at the recent meeting in Charlotte. Dr. Baxter, from "the land of heather and thistle," did indeed speak with the sweetness of heather. His messages were thoroughly Biblical and were delivered with clarity and with delightful touches of humor.

His first message was on "The Power of a Holy Church" (Acts 5: 13-16, 42). A holy church, he said, has power to repel, power to attract, and power to surmount every difficulty. The reason the church is not attracting the right kind of people is that it has lost the power to repel the wrong kind. Ours is an age of theological fraternization and of quislings. But when the church loses its separation from the world it loses its repelling power. In the Early Church all members became witnesses, all owners, stewards, and all self-interest was sunk in the determination to exalt Christ. Dr. Baxter emphasized the vital importance of the local church in the preservation and the propagation of Christianity, yet this pattern must be produced in the ministry in order to be reproduced in the church.

On Friday Dr. Baxter spoke on the abiding significance of Pentecost. The doctrine of the Holy Spirit is the fundamental difference between Christianity and all other religions, for it means first of all the impartation of the life of God by the Holy Spirit. It brings a new fellowship with God—God is in man, and a new filling by God. This results in a new and luminous consciousness of Christ, a wonderfully expanded spiritual capacity, a transformed prayer life and a likeness to Christ.

Dr. Baxter's concluding message was based on John 16:14, "He shall glorify me." This message beautifully exalted Christ, and at its conclusion Council spontaneously broke into the singing of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Although Rev. Le-van-Thai was not an announced speaker for the Council he very ably spoke in place of Dr. C. C. Warren, who was ill. Mr. Thai has been, since 1943, the president of the Evangelical Church (C. & M. A.) of Viet Nam, and represented a Christian community of over 40,000 believers. This was his first visit to the United States, and his message was interpreted by Rev. Herman H. Hazlett, formerly dean of the Alliance Bible school in Tourane, Viet Nam, and at present dean of Simpson Bible College. Mr. Thai told of his conversion to Christ—after stoning the Christians and missionaries and attempting to disrupt the meetings—and then spoke of the meaning of the cross in the Christian's life (Matt. 10:38).

Another high light in the Council program was the message on "The Forward Look" from President H. L. Turner on Sunday morning. Tracing the history of God's people throughout the Scriptures, Dr. Turner declared that God always purposed that they should go forward. The secret of the power to accomplish our God-given mission is the filling of the Holy Ghost, just as it was the power of the Holy Spirit which enabled Christ's disciples to go everywhere preaching the gospel. At the close of his message Dr. Turner asked: "Will we satisfy the heart of God, or follow the course of history—be satisfied with our condition? . . . God wills that we go forward."

(Continued on page 15)

The Divine Betrothal

By DR. WILLIAM H. WRIGHTON

"AND I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness . . . and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord" (Hos. 2:19, 20).

This bright picture of the love of God for Israel is painted upon the dark background of Israel's waywardness and sin. Israel, like the wife of Hosea, was unfaithful to her Lord, but He made the astonishing statement that He would make Israel His own forever.

The divine betrothal is an everlasting union. And the Christian is able to sing: "I am His, and He is mine, forever and forever," for Christ says of His sheep, "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Three times in the two verses from Hosea the expression "I will betroth" is repeated. The Father betroths His chosen people in eternal love, saying, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee." He has also chosen us in Christ before the foundation of the world in order that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

The Son betrothed us to Himself in the atonement of Calvary when He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

The Holy Spirit has betrothed us forever by bringing us into the experience of regeneration. Now we live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, enjoy the communion of the Spirit, and He will abide with us forever and will also quicken these mortal bodies of ours by dwelling in us.

The divine betrothal is in harmony with the divine character. It is in righteousness. Salvation is not a compromise in moral principles. God does not gloss over sin in order to receive us into a lasting relationship with Himself. He does not treat sin superficially. In righteousness He makes us His own by declaring us justified by the blood of Christ. In this way He manifests His righteousness that He might be just and the justifier of him that believeth in Jesus. Our God is a just God and a Saviour. He is as righteous in justifying us through Christ as He would be in condemning us forever, should we join with others in rejecting His salvation.

God has betrothed us to Himself in judgment also. Your sin, my sin, "not in part, but the whole," was brought to Christ's cross. He bare our sin in His own body on the tree. Judgment has been fully exacted. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. We are betrothed unto Him through the execution of judgment, not by avoiding the high demands and penalties of holy law and justice.

In lovingkindness too this divine betrothal is carried through. Sixteen times in this prophecy of Hosea the Hebrew word for lovingkindness is used. His love shall ever be ours, for He has betrothed us forever in His lovingkindness, and even now this side of the river we can sing to our soul, He "crowneth thee with lovingkindness."

Mercies mark every phase of the Lord's betrothal. "Mercies countless as the sands which daily we receive." Yes, mercies, covenant mercies, and all of them are betrothed mercies, redemption mercies. Our betrothal to God is made permanent and lasting through the mercies which are new every morning. Because His compassions fail not we are kept in the holy bonds of the divine companionship. Some day we shall be able to say with holy Samuel Rutherford, "With mercy and with judgment my web of time He wove."

Faithfulness finds expression in every step of the drawing of sinners unto blissful relationship with God in Christ. How unfaithful was Gomer, how unfaithful was Israel, how unfaithful we have often been, but God abideth faithful! He has betrothed us to Himself in faithfulness. God is faithful by whom we are called unto the betrothal of His Son Jesus Christ. God is faithful in forgiving our sins, faithful in cleansing us from all unrighteousness. All His discipline and chastisements are in faithfulness; patient, persistent, fatherly faithfulness.

The divine betrothal brings us to divine knowledge. God reveals Himself to us as we live in His loving communion and tender intimacy of holy companionship. We know through His works of creation many facts about His greatness, His power, His existence and His wisdom. But only as we are betrothed to Him in lovingkindness and tender mercies do we deeply and experientially know the Lord. ◆ ◆ ◆

Dr. Wrighton has been professor in a number of universities and seminaries, among them the University of Georgia, where he was head of the Department of Philosophy. He has also served on the faculties of several well-known Bible schools. In demand as a Bible conference speaker, both on this continent and in England, he is now devoting his full time to this ministry.

DAVID R. ENLOW, Editor

AT HOME

Graham headquarters to remain in Minneapolis: The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has settled any question about a possible move outside Minneapolis by purchasing the former Standard Oil Company building. The association has already occupied the new headquarters, which provides some 32,000 square feet of office space, about twice the space it had before.

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Evangelical Lutherans add 38,941 members: The Evangelical Lutheran Church added 38,941 members in 1956, bringing its baptized total to 1,043,140, Rev. O. H. Hove, general secretary, announced at Minneapolis, Minn. His report showed a total of 2,672 congregations throughout the United States and Canada served by 1,343 pastors. Confirmed membership was reported at 692,383.

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Alliance reports record contributions: Member churches and other supporting organizations of The Christian and Missionary Alliance contributed a record $3,718,668 for its work during 1956, it was reported to the Alliance's 60th annual meeting in Charlotte, N. C. This amount was an increase of $284,266 over 1955. Of the total, $2,773,493 was spent to support the Alliance's mission work.

●

Episcopalians hit ban on visits to Red China: A plea that the government allow American Christian leaders "greater freedom" to visit Christians in Communist China was made by the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island at its annual convention in Providence. At the same time the delegates protested the State Department's ban on U. S. newsmen visiting Red China as a "threat to the American tradition of a free press."

ABROAD

Separate churches planned for India, Pakistan: Plans for the merger of Anglican and Protestant churches in Northern India and Pakistan now provide for separate united churches in the two countries rather than one for both of them. The decision was made by a negotiating committee at Allahabad, India, which said the revised plan will be discussed and voted upon by the seven churches involved. The committee said discussions are expected to continue until 1960, and the two united churches might be inaugurated in 1961.

Services confirm fellowship between German, British churches: Solemn services were held to confirm the full communion and pulpit fellowship agreed upon last year between the Evangelical Church of the Palatinate and the Congregational Union of England and Wales. The services were conducted in English and German at the Protestation Memorial Church, the main Protestant worship center in Speyer, Germany.

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Chinese churches reported planning exchange visits: The Peiping Radio reported that Chinese Protestant churches are planning this year to "increase their contacts and exchange visits with foreign religious bodies and churches."

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Mission for gypsies set up in Germany: A special mission for gypsies, the only one of its kind in Germany, has been set up at Braunschweig by the Lutheran Church. It is directed by Pastor Georg Althaus, who has dedicated many years to ministering to gypsies.

PEOPLE SAY

Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, of Geneva, Switzerland, executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, said he wishes American Protestants would be "a little more understanding and appreciative" of the struggle the church in East Germany is waging against Communism. "It is the one bright spot in Europe where the church is still witnessing to the faith. Its record against Nazism and Communism is one of the strongest things supporting our Christian faith."

PEOPLE

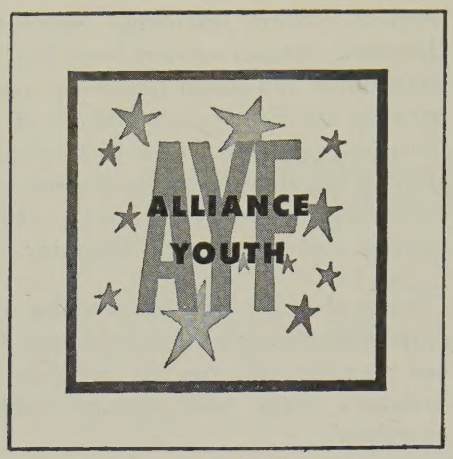
Youth Commission re-elects Hoglund: Rev. Gunnar Hoglund, of Chicago, was re-elected chairman of the Youth Commission of the National Sunday School Association at their annual meeting in Buffalo. The other officers of the unit which seeks to correlate the work of evangelically-inclined youth organizations are Rev. Dick Fulmer, Springfield, Mo., vice-president; Rev. Tom Oschwald, Winona Lake, Ind., treasurer, and Miss Joy Mackay, Chicago, secretary.

●

Illinois pastor elected Presbyterian moderator: Dr. Harold R. Martin, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Ill., was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. at its 169th General Assembly in Omaha, Nebr. He succeeds David W. Proffitt, of Maryville, Tenn., the second layman ever to hold that post.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Crime rate set record in 1956: J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reported that 1956 was the worst year on record for crime. He disclosed, in the FBI's annual "Uniform Crime Report," that offenses known to the police numbered 2,563,150 last year, more than 300,000 over 1955. The 13.3 per cent increase was the largest ever recorded for a single year. It brought the crime rate to 43 per cent higher than in 1950.



WELDON B. BLACKFORD, Editor

A Message for This Year's Graduate

One of God's most honored men in The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Dr. A. C. Snead, has given us a message which we have chosen to dedicate to all graduating AYFers.

Dr. Snead has had a great ministry among the youth of the Alliance. Years ago, Dr. A. B. Simpson, founder of our movement, appointed him to teach the subjects "Christ and the Bible" and "Missions" at The Missionary Training Institute at Nyack, New York, now known as the Nyack Missionary College. Dr. Snead has retired after serving as Foreign Secretary of our Society for nearly forty years.

The Sneads are moving to the Southland, and it was Mrs. Snead who found the now-faded outline of her husband's message while sorting articles, and insisted he pass it on to your editor. It had been written by Dr. Snead many years ago, probably for the youth page of THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY.—EDITOR.

Here is a very timely message that might well serve as a baccalaureate address to all graduating AYFers. The subject of spiritual preparedness, "Being Ready," surely applies to all of us.

1. *Ready to hear,* Isaiah 66:2. A meek and contrite spirit, listening ears and a hearkening heart are only possible as one's will is wholly and constantly yielded to God in all things. Oh, that God's young people might hear the Spirit's cry: "To day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

2. *Ready to do,* 2 Samuel 15:15. Has our King appointed anything for us to do? Surely so! Has He not given *every* servant some portion? (Study Matt. 25:14-30 with John 17: 14.) We must do His will and preach His Word in the pulpit, the mission field, shop, farm, office, at work or play. Therefore we must live the Word that we can naturally and without affectation speak the Word as the occasion arises.

3. *Ready to witness,* 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 119:46. We are to witness by our daily lives and the spoken testimony. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of witness, and only as He fills and controls our lives will we be true witnesses.

4. *Ready to do good and distribute,* 1 Timothy 6:18. We do well to seek the Lord for His love and compassion to be so revealed in us in our daily lives that we may fulfill His purpose for us and serve Him acceptably (Matt. 25:31-46; 9:36-38).

5. *Ready to preach,* Romans 1:15. What a glorious privilege! What a joy to count all else as secondary, to leave all and follow Jesus, even to the ends of the earth. How sorely the work of the Lord needs recruits who are called of God, yielded to Him and equipped by Him to preach the fullness of Jesus at home and abroad. Will you respond to the call?

6. *Ready to die,* Acts 21:13. The martyr spirit is needed, even though martyrdom may not be realized by many of us. Often those who say they would gladly die for Christ Jesus find it hard to be willing to be so crucified with Jesus as to be truly dead to sin, to self and to the world in daily life (Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-11).

7. *Ready for His coming,* Matthew 24:44. Praise God, when we are truly ready for Christ's coming we are also ready to live and do faithful service till He comes; with our lamps trimmed, vessels filled with the oil of the Spirit, garments washed and white; souls yearning, eagerly looking for and hastening unto the coming of our beloved Lord. But, if there is anything in our lives which hinders fellowship with God now, if we have strings binding us to earth and worldly things, how shall we expect to be ready when He comes?

If we live in Him now, in daily abiding, in close communion, in consecrated service, then, and only then, may we be sure of being ready for Him to come.

Enter the open door of abiding service, being clothed with His power, keeping His Word, exalting and hallowing His holy name.

These are some of the ways young people may assure themselves of spiritual preparedness.

Word from an AYFer

Are you doing your utmost for the Lord in your AYF program?

Young people often fail to realize the essential part they have in the church of Jesus Christ today. Just attending and enjoying the program is not enough. Chrisitan youth, living in a world of sin, should have a positive attitude toward the things of God. The Lord needs those who are wholly sold out to Him. Perhaps you have not fully realized how badly you are needed, or just how God can use you in His plan.

Your AYF is a good place to start adopting a positive attitude toward the work of the Lord, and accepting every opportunity that comes your way to work for Him.—WILFRED LITTLE, *AYF, Vermilion, Alta., Can.*

AYF Guide

Bible Reading Plan for School Days

June 24-28

Monday .....Genesis 42
Tuesday .....Psalm 45
Wednesday ...Matthew 10:1-24
Thursday .....Psalm 92
Friday .....Acts 23:23-35

Grace in a Balinese Heart

By MRS. RODGER LEWIS, *Bali*

We first noticed the shine on his face and knew it to be the radiance of the redeemed. He had come with his cousin and several companions from a village a few kilometers distant to attend our regular Saturday night film showing on the Life of Christ. The cousin, Tjatra, had been converted a year before through reading the New Testament while away at school in Java. He had grown spiritually, greatly helped by the Christian and Missionary Alliance publication in the Indonesian language, *Kalam Hidup,* a magazine originally started by Dr. R. A. Jaffray. Tjatra was now home for a brief vacation, but he was busy every minute of it witnessing boldly. One who heard his testimony and believed was Sutara, the lad with the glow on his countenance. How we rejoiced that night to hear his confession, "I have accepted Christ." We continue to rejoice and praise God who is mighty to the tearing down of Satan's stronghold.

We recall the proud and emphatic words of a high caste Balinese from this city: "It is impossible that anyone from here will enter your religion." Indeed Klungkung and Karangasem are known to be fanatically Hindu. Yet God assured us when He placed us here that He was going to do a mighty work. Satan and the forces of darkness have resisted all the way, but we praise God that Satan's fortress is crumbling.

Certainly it does take a mighty work of God to enable a person from this totally heathen area to make open confession of Christ. He must be prepared to endure the tremendous pressure exerted upon the "traitor" by an affronted Hindu-Bali society. We recall Nyoman Karsa from Klungkung, who accepted the Lord and then was forced to flee to Java. We remember others who have prayed with us, professing to take Christ as Saviour, and then have drawn back as they began to encounter opposition. Many who admit that the "Christ way" is the true way fear the consequences and this keeps them from openly pledging allegiance to Jesus Christ.

And so we praise God at the mighty work of grace in Sutara's heart. He has held firm and has grown spiritually in spite of, or perhaps because of, much persecution. His schoolmates have taunted, saying he has changed religions for the American dollar. His father has raged, threatening to kill all who have led astray his son. The mother has wept, pleading with her son not to disgrace the family and incur the wrath of the gods by following this strange religion. The *bandjar,* a tightly knit unit of society, has gathered in Sutara's home to threaten and cajole alternately. For two nights Sutara sought refuge with us when he was forced to leave home. We prayed and fasted together and God worked, calming the parents and village until the lad was able to return home.

Persecution continues, yet in it all the glory light on Sutara's face remains undimmed. In fact, it seemed to dispel the darkness of that rainy day not long ago when he, along with our Balinese helper, was buried with Christ in baptism. God answered prayer, causing a torrential rain to abate sufficiently so that we and the national workers could get to the river. The rain was not stopped altogether; perhaps there might have been a riot had there been good weather and many onlookers.

Sutara's hunger for the Word, his boldness in witnessing, his delight in prayer have caused us to rejoice. His clear testimony in school has brought about a minor upheaval. He is continually surrounded by schoolmates, many who jeer and argue, but some listen thoughtfully. In his village are a few who confess they believe in their hearts but are afraid as yet to take an open stand. We feel confident God is using, and will use, this lad to the winning of many of his own people.

One of Sutara's teachers, a proud Brahman, said of him, "A simple lad." We remembered the words of First Corinthians 1:27, "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty." God in the midst of us is mighty.

Children from an indigenous Christian community, Alor, Indonesia

V. L. NEIGENFIND

Gaining a Foothold in Trujillo

By REV. CHARLES GOOD, *Peru*

Trujillo, the third largest city in Peru, has a population of 80,000 persons. It is a university city situated on the northern coast and is a strategic center for spreading the gospel. A missionary there is in immediate contact with the mountain region where there are several Alliance churches in which we hold Bible conventions twice every year.

The work in Trujillo was opened two years ago by Rev. B. A. Lofsted. Since the city is growing faster than buildings can be constructed, it was no easy task to find a meeting place for the church and a house for the missionary family. But God miraculously supplied a corner building on the main street at a reasonable price.

No one in Trujillo knew of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, but the missionary was blessed of God in his contacts and efforts. God provided a local couple to help in the establishing of the Alliance here. They are faithful in the work. One young fellow who attended a summer term in our Bible institute at Huánuco has returned to his home in Trujillo. He has brought his family to church and most of them have accepted Christ. His younger brother wants to go to Bible school.

Dissatisfied with the Catholic Church and trying to find peace of heart in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, one outstanding young man met Mr. Lofsted who was able to instruct him in the truth. Today he serves as radio announcer of our half-hour program which goes over the air every Sunday evening at quarter past six. Many homes are reached through the radio program. People stop us on the street to tell us that they enjoy it. Many of them will not attend an evangelical church for fear of the priests or family.

The young radio announcer contacted one of his friends who also found peace of heart in Christ and today is president of the young people's society. He had been sent to the coast to live with his uncle, a staunch Roman Catholic, and was to attend the Catholic seminary to prepare to become a monk. Discontented with the family religion, he rebelled and went his own way. Then it was that he was drawn to the gospel and found Christ as his living Saviour. Today he is happy and contented in Jesus. He is doing well in his business as the Lord has prospered him.

Less than a block from the church a family was contacted and last year their children came to vacation Bible school. Now the entire family attends church services regularly. The mother has accepted Christ and the girls are happy in their new-found love for Him. They would like to attend Bible school when their high school days are over.

A few months ago when we were planning our last trip into the mountains, we spoke to the young secretary at the trucking agency. From the very beginning she and her sister were eager to learn about the plan of salvation. Since they found the Lord their home has been changed and they invite their friends to the services. They are among the others in an instruction class and will be baptized in the near future.

Just before Christmas we were holding services every Tuesday morning in the county jail. Eagerly waiting for our visit each week, those who were interested in the gospel gathered in a side room to help sing and hear the message of God's Word. One guard and one prisoner have accepted the Lord, and the prisoner has bought his own Bible which he reads to his mates every night. Temporarily the services have been interrupted by order of the state church; however, God is able to open this door of service again as He did once before.

We are still meeting in the same rented building and also rent a house for the missionary. The monthly rent is very high and there is nothing to show for it but a bundle of canceled receipts. Property in Trujillo is very expensive and also difficult to find, due to the influx of population. To buy a piece of property large enough for the church and the parsonage would cost around $7,500. The Christians here are not financially able to buy the property and also begin construction. Therefore, we are asking all those interested in having a part in this work to help in purchasing property for a permanent base in Trujillo, Peru. The church is able to construct a church and parsonage. They already have started a building fund which is growing.

If you would like to have a part in this ministry, address your gift to the Treasurer, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, New York, and mark it "Special, Trujillo, Peru, property." Pray with us that God will descend upon us with His power to establish a flourishing church for His glory.

Hundreds of packages of literature are shipped from Zamboanga *(see page 16)*

A. J. HERBERT

THE GROWING SUNDAY SCHOOL

MAVIS L. ANDERSON, Editor

There Needn't Be a Summer Slump!

Perhaps you have wondered what kind of a summer lies ahead for you and your Sunday school. There is a temptation for your own zeal to lag as the temperature soars. Hot, sultry days seem to invite spiritual lethargy. These things make summer a time feared by Sunday school leaders and written off as the summer slump.

And yet summer is a time of opportunity. If you will discover not only how to keep from losing ground but how to take advantage of new opportunities, you can make this summer a time of advance. It means you will have to pray more. Every teacher will have to study harder to make the lessons more interesting; he will have to expend some effort to see that classrooms are fresh and inviting on a hot summer day and take advantage of the unexcelled opportunities for between-Sunday outings. Every member, the staff as well as pupils, will have to be on the lookout to reach new people.

Many Sunday school leaders are like the pessimist who hoped for the best while he feared the worst. They approach the summer months convinced that their attendance will suffer a severe slump and seldom are they disappointed.

Pulling together makes the difference between success and failure. If you would advance this summer, enlist the active coöperation of each member and provide opportunities for everyone to participate in your program.

Summer not only takes people away from your church on vacation, but it brings vacationers through your community. Perhaps you can have the privilege of winning them for Christ.

Success is for those who will take it. It will be taken by the Spirit-filled, the ambitious, the alert. "Say not ye, there are yet four months and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."

Reach the Stranger

1. Be sure to include announcements of the Sunday school with other church notices in the daily paper, even if you don't advertise any other time of the year.

2. Secure permission to include your church announcement in the listing placed in hotel lobbies.

3. Place attractive invitations in tourist camps and motor courts.

4. Put posters in neighborhood stores. Of course, all posters and announcements should be neat, attractive and accurate. This invitation will be the reader's first impression of you. Make it good!

5. Enlist the young people to give out tracts and invitations on Saturday nights in nearby parks.

6. Send an adult class out on Sunday morning during the class hour to discover children on the streets who are obviously not in Sunday school. Many churches close down in the summer. Among these "shut-outs" you may find some that you can win for Christ this summer.

Keep the Member

1. Determine not to have a slump! This is the first and most important step. Keep this attitude before the entire school.

2. Use as many different people in the school as possible. While workers are away use this opportunity to give someone a chance who may not have served before. You may discover new talent in this way.

3. Offer simple awards for perfect summer attendance and also to those who have missed no more than one or two Sundays during the time set aside for the summer program.

4. Set a goal as to the average attendance for the "Beat the Summer Slump Campaign." One school set a goal of 75 per cent of the active membership. The class average should also be set at 75 per cent of the active membership.

5. Plan for variety in your assembly program. For example, on a hot July day let the topic be *snow*, using the word in Bible references and hymns. Winter scenes can add atmosphere. Christmas in August has been used by many schools featuring carols, the Christmas story and gifts for missionaries.

6. Pray for a victorious summer and there need be no slump.

Summer Tips for Alert Teachers

1. *Coöperate fully with the superintendent in making plans for vacation schedules. Careless and frequent week-end trips can tear down the work of the whole year. Be sincerely careful!*

2. *Encourage class members to attend Sunday school while on vacation. Give them attendance cards to take with them.*

3. *Suggest that class members on trips send postcards back to the class. A summer postcard bulletin board may add interest.*

4. *While you are on vacation send cards to your class members. Simplify the task by preparing a handy list before you leave home.*

5. *If some of your class members are away for the whole summer plan to write to them and send them the Sunday school papers.*

CLIFFORD E. HARROD, Reporter

News reports may be sent direct to Rev. C. E. Harrod, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, East and Lane Streets, Raleigh, N. C.

To the Fields

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Olsen and son, Mark, sailed from New York on May 31 returning to French West Africa for their sixth and second terms respectively. They will be stationed at Tiebissou, Ivory Coast.

Miss Joyce E. Murray left New York by plane June 1 for New Guinea for her first term of service. She will be stationed at Sentani as secretary-bookkeeper. Miss Murray is a member of the C. & M. A. church in Jersey City, N. J., and has worked in the Foreign Department at Headquarters for the past three years. She also spent one year with the Beefhide Gospel Mission in Kentucky following graduation from Nyack Missionary College.

Joyce E. Murray
New Guinea

On Furlough

Rev. and Mrs. John I. Perkins and children, John, Dorothy, Barbara, Cheryl and Gwendolyn, arrived in Los Angeles June 1 from Thailand where they have just completed their third term of service. They have been stationed at Udorn.

Miss Isabelle Hall arrived in Miami on June 1 by plane from Ecuador for her fourth furlough. Miss Hall has been teaching in the Alliance Academy in Quito. She is on a year's leave of absence to take further studies.

With the Lord

Mrs. Agnes R. Cummins, wife of Rev. John W. Cummins, died on May 8 after a brief illness. Following her graduation from The Missionary Training Institute at Nyack and her marriage in 1916, she served with her husband in pastorates in Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, New York and Washington.

They had been living in retirement in San Diego, Calif., for the past several years.

Regional Prayer Conference Held

The Southeastern Kentucky Regional Prayer Conference of The Christian and Missionary Alliance was held April 23 to 25 at the Peek's Branch Church, Burdine, Ky. Conference speakers were Rev. A. C. Marvin, Assistant Superintendent of the Central District, and Rev. John Nussbaum, of Lima, Ohio. Homes in the community were graciously opened to provide for the delegates and the conference was a time of spiritual refreshing to all who attended.

The Beefhide Gospel Mission summer camps opened on June 10, states the director, Miss Margaret Wearley, and run through June 29. Rev. W. J. Carey, of Bryan, Ohio, was the speaker for the youth camp, first children's camp and the adult week-end conference. Workers of the Mission serve as counsellors and Bible teachers.

News Flashes from the Nyack Hillside

Graduation exercises of the Nyack Missionary College held special significance during the Diamond Jubilee Anniversary of the college. Dr. Billy Graham brought the baccalaureate sermon on Sunday morning, June 2, and Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College, delivered the commencement address on Monday, June 3. One hundred and eleven graduates received diplomas and joined the thousands of alumni who serve some thirty-five denominations in more than forty-two countries of the world.

The Moller Organ Company is now in the process of building a three-manual pipe organ which is to be installed in Pardington Hall in December, thanks to an unidentified donor. The instrument will be moved to the new chapel when it is built.

The return of Rev. Don Kenyon to Nyack as professor of Bible and Greek was recently announced. Mr. Kenyon served on the faculty for several years before resigning to engage in a pastoral ministry, after which he joined the faculty of Fort Wayne Bible College. He takes up his work at Nyack in September.

A Pastors and Alumni Conference will highlight the summer activities of this jubilee year on the Hillside. Scheduled for July 15 to 19, it will feature three outstanding lecturers: Dr. Merrill Tenney, dean of the Graduate School, Wheaton College; Dr. Kenneth C. Fraser, pastor of the North Side Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, Pittsburgh, Pa., and Dr. Oswald J. Smith, of the Peoples Church, Toronto, Canada. Each will speak on a phase of pastoral ministry and workshop sessions will be held. Activities have been planned for ladies also. Registration for the conference is only $3.00 per person.

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Olsen and son
French West Africa

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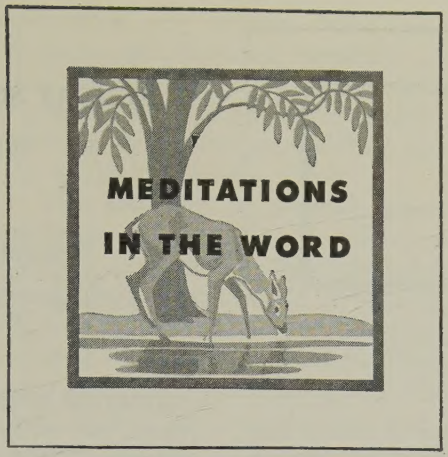
Young people in Colombia will prepare the stamps for sale. Do not attempt to remove the stamps from the envelope but leave a good margin around them. Send by *first class letter packet* to Rev. R. M. Searing, Apartado 624, Cali, Valle, Colombia.

The more thou knowest and the better thou understandest the more strictly shalt thou be judged, unless thy life be also the more holy. Be not therefore elated in thine own mind because of any art or science, but rather let the knowledge given thee make thee afraid.
—THOMAS À KEMPIS.



Compiled by EDITH M. BEYERLE

Sunday

READING—Colossians 3:5-17.
TEXT—*"Whatsoever ye do . . . do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him"* (verse 17).

I heard the other day of a company of Christians who came together for a season of waiting upon the Lord in which they would not allow any of the party to talk on any ordinary subject or go out to purchase any article in the stores or engage in any business which could be avoided. Every moment was supposed to be set apart for some sacred exercise. This is essentially the idea of monasticism and is unwholesome. It is just as holy to laugh as to cry; it is just as holy to use your handsaw as your prayer book. We can bring Christ into common things as fully as into religious services. Indeed, it is the highest and hardest application of divine grace to bring it down to the ordinary matters of life, and therefore God is far more honored in this than in things that are more specially sacred.—A. B. SIMPSON.

Pray for The Island World; Eastern, South Pacific Districts, Mexico.

Monday

READING—Isaiah 57:12-21.
TEXT—*"The high and lofty One . . . inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy"* (verse 15).

Eternity is so long, and so short is my time to prepare for it. If a million years formed but a letter of a volume, the universe could not store the books that eternity would write. Did one leaf on a tree hold the history of the world, all the forests of earth could not contain the history of eternity. Were the mighty universe annihilated but one atom in a million years, it would all be gone ere eternity had fairly begun. . . . But this time of preparation is also a part of eternity, and there is no more of God in all the infinite reach of the ages than in this moment, nor if I could wait and watch forever could I find God more loving and more helpful than He is eager to be now.—AMOS WELLS.

Pray for India; Western Pennsylvania District, Puerto Rico, Jewish Work.

Tuesday

READING—Matthew 7:6-15.
TEXT—*"Ask, and it shall be given"* (verse 7).

Several years ago there lived an old Presbyterian preacher who believed in prevailing prayer. Forest fires were quite common and ways of stopping them were not so effective. He lived near the great forests. One day a fire broke out and was sweeping on at high speed. His family became alarmed, but they noticed a calmness over the old prophet's face. His son said he thought they had better be doing something about the fire instead of taking it so easy. Presently this humble servant called his family and talked to the great Commander of heaven and earth. Immediately there came a change in the elements. . . . God sent a torrent of rain.—GOSPEL HERALD.

Pray for Africa; Western, Western Canadian, Southeastern Districts.

Wednesday

READING—Zechariah 2:1-8.
TEXT—*"He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye"* (verse 8).

It matters to God! precious comfort in sorrow;
It matters to God—soothing solace in tears;
It matters to God—all about the to-morrow,
The uncertain track and the long-stretching years.

It matters to God all about the sore heartache,
He knoweth the cause, as He holdeth the cure;
And if He sees best not to heal quick the heartbreak,
'Tis sure He'll give exquisite grace to endure.

—J. DANSON SMITH.

Pray for Indo-China, Thailand; Northeastern, Eastern and Central Canadian Districts.

Thursday

READING—Romans 12:9-21.
TEXT—*"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men"* (verse 18).

A lady who was somewhat quick-tempered . . . once said to me, "I assure you there is no fault in my case, because I never lose my temper unless I am provoked!" No, and I do not think the devil does! To lose your temper shows that you are out of communion with your blessed Lord. If the peace of God ruled in our hearts, we would never again be provoked. Think of that! Moses was so provoked that he spoke unadvisedly, and yet he was the meekest man that ever lived. But Moses had not the risen Christ to dwell in his heart. Be not discouraged or fear lest you may fall tomorrow. . . . Can Christ keep you this minute in a good temper? Then He can keep you the next moment, and so on forever. He can keep you in peace amid the severest trials, even such as He had to bear.—H. W. WEBB-PEPLOE.

Pray for South America; Southwestern, Pacific Northwest Districts.

Friday

READING—2 Samuel 7:18-29.
TEXT—*"Thy words be true, and thou hast promised"* (verse 28).

Here is an eloquent example of child-like faith. David seemed overwhelmed at God's disclosure of His intention to keep the king's house alive forever. It had been enough, he reasoned, for God to establish him as king, but to assert that His kindness should extend to his posterity was almost beyond belief. Well might David exclaim, "Is this the manner [or law] of man, O Lord God?" He realized it was not, and that God only would, or could, commit Himself for millenniums to come. But his faith in God's promise was unshaken by the greatness of its scope. David had learned that God always kept His word; hence, his avowal of faith. David would believe although he would never live to see the words fulfilled. It is good too, when asking God for something clearly promised in His Word, to remember that "what he hath promised, he (is) *able* also to perform" (Rom. 4:21).—PAMELI.

Pray for China, Hong Kong; Northwestern, New England Districts.

Saturday

READING—Psalm 46.
TEXT—*"Be still, and know that I am God"* (verse 10).

Charles G. Finney tells that he was crossing the Atlantic when the steamer was overtaken by a fierce gale of wind. . . . The spray from the crests of the waves blew upon the face with force almost enough to blister it. The noise of the waves . . . was almost deafening. But when he stepped into the engine rooms everything was quiet. The mighty engine was moving with a quietness and stillness in striking contrast with the roar outside. Thus the soul that is hid with Christ in God can enjoy a peace and quietness that the world, with all its storms and changing circumstances, cannot disturb. It is the hidden life that makes the character. What we are in the depths of our being where no human eye can penetrate, that we are actually as God sees us. —GOSPEL BANNER.

Pray for Israel, Jordan, Syria; Central, South Atlantic Districts.

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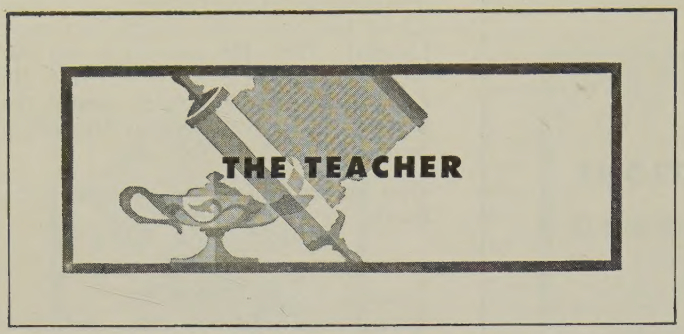

By DON J. KENYON

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—JUNE 30, 1957

What Makes a Man Great?

Genesis 45:3-15

DEVOTIONAL READING—1 Corinthians 13

GOLDEN TEXT—*"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."*—MATTHEW 5:7.

BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

True to Joseph's prediction, the seven years of famine had begun and hunger began to make itself the chief consideration of Egypt's sphere of influence (41:54). The emergency placed Joseph in the key office of the land; he had a curb on the grain market. Wealth began to pour into Egypt as grain supplies were used. In chapter 42 the story turns back to the redemptive aspect. Jacob and his sons in Canaan began to feel the pinch of hunger. They had to go to Egypt for food. The narrative of Joseph's dealings with his brethren is well known by all Bible readers. The significant thing is that the outcome of this event centers in the *character* of Joseph. What the rigors of life made this man was responsible for what the man did at his golden opportunity for revenge.

CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

Joseph had tested his brethren for honesty, loyalty, selflessness and truthfulness. They seemed to pass all his rigid tests with improved character. The supreme test was put to Judah to discover if he had been purged for his part in the plot against Joseph's life. Judah's willingness to protect young Benjamin was too much for the warm-hearted Joseph (44:32). This event seemed to be the end of the testing. It proved that God knew how to deliver men not only from physical emergencies but also to cleanse them from the passions which ruin them. The royal seed had a spiritual heritage that outweighed its material destiny. This incident would have a uniting effect on the chosen family. Their ordeal in Egypt began with interfamily solidarity.

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. *The Revelation and Explanation*—Genesis 45:3-8.
2. *The Invitation to Egypt*—Genesis 45:9-13.
3. *The Family Reunion*—Genesis 45:14, 15.

KEY WORD ANALYSIS

(1) "Troubled at his presence" (v. 3), akin to terror. The only rational thought these brothers could think was in terms of revenge. They knew the man as Joseph but they did not know Joseph *the man.* Had he been other than the man of character he was, their terror would have been well founded. As it was, it lay in their guilty conscience. Joseph, to them as well as dead, began to live again.

(2) "To preserve you a posterity" (v. 7). Famine would have wiped out Jacob's seed had it not been for this act of God. Joseph, with his keen spiritual insight, was able to view past events objectively.

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. *The Revelation and Explanation* (Gen. 45:3-8).

The first question which Joseph asked after revealing his identity to his brethren was concerning his father. Although the father had been discussed in their conversations, he wanted to make sure that there had been no subterfuge nor deceit in their account of him. The joy of their reunion was the mutual happiness anticipated.

The brethren were inarticulate with fear. They were not sure of the moral temper of this great man with whom they were dealing. He invited them to come near to him, an invitation which in the Orient indicated a sign of favor. He wanted to assure them that his motive was anything but a desire for revenge.

Although Joseph reminded them of the incident of the past that had brought him into Egypt, they needed no prop to bolster their memory. The scriptural record here reveals a man of magnanimity and graciousness. Joseph reminded them in the spirit of forgiveness that God had been working out this whole event in the pattern of His own perfect will for the family. "God did send me" was his analysis.

He based his predictions for the duration of the emergency upon the word which God had given him. God's providence had been prevenient; His plan had been perfect—He "sent me before you." It was this assurance that had made the irregular course of Joseph's life tolerable. From Jacob he had well learned that they were the chosen seed and that God had invested in them the promise made to Abraham. It was not because of their righteous acts but because of God's irrevocable decrees. When Joseph said to his brethren—"not you . . . but God," he assured them that their guilt did not lie in the act they had performed but in the hatred which prompted it. Here was Romans 8:28 at work in an ancient setting.

2. *The Invitation to Egypt* (Gen. 45:9-13).

Now that the past had been cleared up, the sense of haste in consummating the plan of God was transferred to the brothers. Jacob's age made action imperative if he were to enjoy the fruits of God's working. Joseph had already decided upon the place of their settlement, the lush delta-land of the Nile, Goshen. Although this later was brought about by the decision of Pharaoh, Joseph evidently influenced him in this decision.

Unselfish Joseph wanted his brethren and their families to enjoy the best of what God had provided for him. This move to Egypt was to be under the supervision and administration of Joseph. No ulterior motive was the controlling factor in this change. Note that Joseph's concern for Jacob was the consuming thought in his plans. When Jacob arrived in Egypt the will of God in the ordeal of his past was to be perfected.

3. *The Family Reunion* (Gen. 45:14, 15).

The sons of Rachel embraced; the brethren found their tongues. Joy supplanted fear. The reconciliation was complete.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

Read and reread the Joseph narrative until all the rich, redemptive implications become full of meaning. So long as the will and workings of God are kept foremost it cannot degenerate into a mere story. Human interest and moral character are at a high level here but should not be exploited in favor of the related value of this account in showing God our Saviour.

Heard at Charlotte

(Continued from page 5)

As a prelude to the Sunday evening service the Toccoa Falls Bible College presented a musical program. Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Forrest were present and received a cordial ovation from the delegates. In reply Dr. Forrest said he had missed only three Councils in the fifty-five years of his ministry. "For the past," he said, "I have precious memories; in the present, peace and contentment; as for the future, the best is yet to come."

Dr. A. W. Tozer spoke on Sunday evening on the internality of true worship (John 4:24), which he defined as the response of the redeemed soul to God. Man must worship; his soul was made as the habitat of God, yet because of sin it is void. When God moves into a man's soul He is doing what is natural—and only then can man worship. True worship is spiritual and it must be characterized by honesty and sincerity.

Rev. C. A. Epperson, who brought the opening message of Council, spoke of carnal comparatives (2 Cor. 10:12-18; 6:3-10), the ways in which we are prone either to console ourselves (the successful man "got all the breaks") or exalt ourselves (the unsuccessful "didn't have what it takes"). He emphasized the necessity of seeking the superlative, the commendation of God and the fullness of the stature of Christ (Eph. 4:13). The manifestation of truth in the life is the requisite for attaining this.

On Friday morning following the Communion service Rev. W. G. Weston conducted a service on "The Lord for the Body." At this time several of our leaders, Dr. R. R. Brown, Dr. H. L. Turner, Rev. H. E. Nelson and Dr. Thomas Moseley, described how God had dealt with them. Although the testimonies differed from each other the recurrent theme was Romans 8:11 and faith in the person of Christ.

Dr. J. T. Zamrazil, who spoke Friday evening, compared the commissioning of the apostles to our commissioning—to overcome the powers of darkness through Christ, to take the yoke of service with Him, and to preach the gospel of peace.

A splendid program of music was presented by Nyack Missionary College on Saturday evening. At this seventy-fifth jubilee celebration Council also heard a bit of Nyack's past, of its present possibilities and its dedication for the future.

The last day of Council, when delegates are planning to leave, is always difficult for the scheduled speakers. It was made doubly so this year when Council adjourned shortly after three o'clock on Monday afternoon—after voting that the four o'clock and seven-thirty services would be held as announced. However, appreciative and attentive audiences were present at both meetings. Rev. D. T. Anderson spoke from John 20:19-23. All the problems of our day, he said, will be solved by a recognition of the presence of Christ which brings a peace that fortifies, new joy, a new participation in His work, and the power of the Holy Ghost.

Rev. C. H. Erickson brought the concluding message on the subject "Sufficient Ministers of the New Covenant." He urged his audience to develop an inner capacity for God and compared faith with obedience to the natural law of assimilation as essential to spiritual growth.

A report of Council would not be complete without mention of the seventy-voice Preachers Chorus, so ably conducted by Dr. R. R. Brown. Now a Council institution, the Chorus brings great inspiration to the public services as they sing old favorites—"The Unveiled Christ," "Come, Ye Disconsolate," "Blessed Assurance," "Lord, Send Me There," and many others. This year they presented a special arrangement of "March On—Till the Whole World Knows" and a new missionary song, "Go Forth with a Song," both sung during the missionary rally (ALLIANCE WEEKLY, June 12). ◆ ◆ ◆

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